Hoffa Discusses the Problems of Automation, December 9, 1963

*Male Voice:* Teamster Union President Jimmy Hoffa has called for new legislation to combat automation and other influences that increase unemployment. Hoffa uses as an example, the announcement that Studebaker is closing its South Bend, Indiana plant and moving auto production to Canada.

*James R. Hoffa:* The announcement that the Studebaker Corporation is closing its plant in South Bend, Indiana, furloughing all of their employees, and then opening their plant in Windsor, Canada is another indication as to why we came here to testify that there must be a reduction in the work week and a recognition that it's all very well and good to import dollar volume, unless you recognize the employees that are being deprived of jobs. By the importation of material, we're going to have a serious major unemployment problem in this country to the point of a depression. And that's why we're here today. To try and gain the jobs for the young and the old. Where today we have over 7,000,000 unemployed people, and is becoming steadily worse day after day.

*Male Voice:* This is the big Studebaker plant in South Bend, where some 6,000 employees will be thrown out of work when the firm shuts down and that, according to board chairman Randolph Guthrie, will be within a week or two after present production schedules are met. Guthrie expressed regret today at having to put people out of work in South Bend. He said the firm is doing it only because it's lost so much money there in the automobile business. Guthrie said the move to Canada is the only way the company can remain in business indefinitely and make a profit. He said salaried workers would receive severance pay, while union members would receive benefits provided in their contract. In Washington, Indiana and federal officials set up a hasty meeting today to figure out ways of finding jobs for those 6,000 persons who will be thrown out of work.